

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8 and 10-14 are currently pending. Claims 1, 6 and 10 have been amended to incorporate cancelled subject matter. Claims 9 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-8 and 10-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by U.S. Publication 2002/041692 A1 to Seto et al. (hereafter the '692 publication); the Drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a); Claim 13 is objected to as to matters of form; and Claims 9 and 15 have been identified as reciting allowable subject matter.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter. As such, the independent claims have been amended to incorporated the allowable subject matter thus, mooted the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

At paragraph 2 of the Official Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as allegedly failing to describe the claimed feature “environmental variable acquisition means”. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As can be appreciated, the environmental variable acquisition means invokes 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. Proper interpretation of this language includes review of the specification and corresponding structures relative to the recited functionality. In this regard, Applicants reference at least the environmental information sensor (6) of Figure 1 as illustrating an exemplary structure satisfying this functionality. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

CLAIM OBJECTION

With regard to the objection to Claim 13 as outlined at paragraph 4 of the Official Action, the typographical error has been addressed in accordance with the Office's suggestions.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection of Claim 13 be withdrawn.

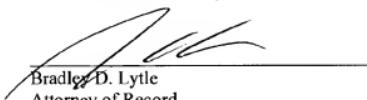
As all outstanding issues now stand satisfied, Applicants respectfully request that the present application be allowed to proceed to issuance.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes any additional formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, by telephone, at the Examiner's convenience.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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